

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T LISBON 3555

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJ: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL: EANES BILATERAL

REF: LISBON 3446 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT EANES IS LIKELY TO RAISE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS IN HIS BILATER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON MAY 10 AT THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING.
2. PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NATO: EANES WILL DISCUSS PORTUGAL'S RETURN TO AN ACTIVE ROLE IN NATO AND EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR US ASSISTANCE IN MODERNIZING ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, EANES IS WORRIED ABOUT EFFECT SLOW PROGRESS ON EQUIPPING NEW NATO-DEDICATED BRIGADE IS HAVING ON ARMY. HE MAY REQUEST THE PRESIDENT'S HELP IN GETTING ASSURANCE OF EARLY DELIVERY OF 18 M48A5'S TANKS FRG WISHES TO BUY FOR PORTUGUESE. DELAY IN RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE IS HOLDING UP US AND ALLIED ASSISTANCE EFFORTS FOR BRIGADE. IF MATTER COULD BE DECIDED PRIOR TO MEETING, IT WOULD OFFER EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO BE SUPPORTIVE ON A NATO-RELATED ISSUE OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO EANES.

3. SOVIET THREAT: AS A PRINCIPAL FIGURE IN RESISTING A
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COMMUNIST POWER PLAY IN PORTUGAL, EANES WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THREAT TO NATO POSED BY ENHANCED SOVIET MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

4. INTERNAL POLITICS: IF ASKED, EANES WILL BE PREPARED TO GIVE A RUNDOWN ON HOW HE SEES THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.

5. CSCE: EANES MAY ASK BOUT US POSITION AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND INDICATE PORTUGUESE SUPPORT FOR THRUST OF US POLICY.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS: EANES CAN BE EXPECTED TO UNDERLINE STRONG PORTUGUESE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT CARTER MAY WISH TO HIGHLIGHT AGAIN, AS HE DID IN HIS APRIL 23 LETTER TO EAENS, US ADMIRATION AND APPRECIATION FOR PORTUGUESE ACHIEVEMENT OF A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM DESPITE EXTREMIST PRESSURES.

7. LOAN PROGRAM: EANES MAY WISH TO REVIEW WHERE WE STAND ON MULTILATERAL LOAN FOR PORTUGAL. HE IS AWARE OF STRONG US BACKING AND WILL FOCUS ON PROBLEM OF ACHIEVING ADEQUATE PARTICIPATION FROM OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. MCCORMICK, S/S-O.

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